

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 05858 140727 Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 SS-15 INR-10 RSR-01 RSC-01 /051 W
----- 070093

R 140507 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2335

S E C R E T BANGKOK 5858

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT: WEAPONS RANGES

REF: STATE 068091

1. APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION PROVIDED REFTEL PARA. 2 A CONCERNING PHYSICAL RANGE REQUIREMENTS. THESE COINCIDE WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF TACTICAL RANGE CAPABILITIES. TWO POTENTIAL TACTICAL RANGE AREAS HAVE BEEN RE- IDENTIFIED, VISUALLY RE- SURVEYED FROM THE AIR ONLY, AND TENTATIVELY RE- ALIGNED BY U. S. PERSONNEL ONLY BASED ON OBSERVED POPULATED AREA CHANGES SINCE THE 1968-1970 SURVEY. THESE TWO AREAS OFFER BEST POSSIBILITIES IN THAILAND, INCLUDING OVER- WATER RANGES. THE PROPOSED RE- ALIGNMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. UDORN EMERGENCY JETTISON AREA: 171020 N 10239 E; 171020 N 10245 E; 1700 N 10245 E; 1700 N 10239 E. THE AREA DEFINED BY THESE COORDINATES CONSISTS OF A PLATEAU THAT IS FAIRLY FLAT WITH A SLIGHT SADDLEBACK AND WOULD MAKE AN EXCELLENT TACTICS RANGE. THE AREA APPEARS TO BE A ROCK BASE COVERED BY A FAIRLY DENSE FOREST AND DEVOID OF POPULATION. THIS AREA WOULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE RANGE SIZE WITH EXCELLENT SAFETY BOUNDARIES. THIS WOULD BE AN EXPANSION OF AN EXISTING EMERGENCY JETTISON AREA.

B. AREA 15 NM NE OF NAM PHONG: THIS AREA REQUIRES RE- ORIENTA- TION FROM THE 1968-1970 SURVEY TO COORDINATES: 1651 N 10308 E; 154330 N 10309 E; 164530 N 1031930 E: 1653 N 1031830 E. THE AREA OUTLINED BY THESE COORDINATES GENERALLY FOLLOWS A PLATEAU WITH SEVERAL FAIRLY LARGE FLAT AREAS ATOP THE PLATEAU SUITABLE FOR GUNNERY
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RANGOR ADDITIONAL ASSURANCE, ARE ASKING FOR FORMAL REQUEST
FROM TOP LEVEL OF SPANISH GOVERNMENT BEFORE USN ACTS AS
INTERMEDIARY.

4. WE HAVE INDICATIONS AT ALL THAT SPANISH AIR FORCE OR
ITS ALLIES WITHIN GOVERNMENT BLAME US IN ANY WAY NOW THAT
DECISION APPEARS TO HAVE GONE AGAINST THEM OR THAT MFA RESENTS
US ROLE IN MATTER. SINCE MOST OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR PURCHASE
OF HARRIERS AND TRAINING PACKAGE HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN WASHINGTON,
DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.
RIVERO

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO05858
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730443/aaaapfl.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 73 STATE 068091
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 30 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jan-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980120
Subject: WEAPONS RANGES
TAGS: MARR, TH
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005